

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 /083 W

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R 191425Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3534

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AG, FR, TS

SUBJECT: ALGERIANS TIGHTEN UP ON FOREIGNERS

REF: ALGIERS 3614

1. CURRENT HIGH LEVEL OF ALGERIAN TENSION BEING REFLECTED NOT ONLY IN INCREASED NASTINESS TO MOROCCAN RESIDENTS (REFTEL) BUT ALSO IN INCREASING NUMBER OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING OTHER FOREIGNERS AS WELL.

2. OFFICIAL PRESS REPORTED DEC. 16 ON ARREST OF TWO FRENCHMEN, MICHEL PELLOIE AND JEAN-CLAUDE CHAUCHARD, FOR ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE AND CORRUPTION. TWO MEN, WHO ARE EMPLOYEES OF FRENCH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, STEPHANOISE, HAVE BEEN IN JAIL IN CONSTANTINE SINCE ABOUT NOV. 20.

ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, PELLOIE ARRIVED IN ANNABA FOR FIRST TIME IN MAY, 1974, AND HAS TRAVELED BETWEEN ALGIERS AND FRANCE SINCE THAT TIME, APPARENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH BID WHICH STEPHANOISE MADE TO ALGERIAN

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STATE STEEL CORPORATION (SNS) SIX MONTHS AGO. DURING

HIS STAY, PRESS CHARGES, PELLOIE CONTACTED SNS WORKERS IN ATTEMPT TO GAIN ACCESS TO RESTRICTED INFORMATION AND IN NOVEMBER SUCCEEDED IN SUBORNING A FOREIGN SNS TECHNICIAN INTO GIVING HIM A SECRET LIST OF BIDS ON A \$50 MILLION SNS PROJECT IN RETURN FOR A \$12,500 CONSIDERATION. PRESS CARRIES COPY OF ALLEGED LETTER FROM PELLOIE TO TECHNICIAN EXPRESSING STEPHANOISE'S READINESS TO PAY THE \$12,500. CHAUCHARD SEEMS TO HAVE ASSISTED PELLOIE IN THIS ACTIVITY. PRESS ARTICLE NOTES THAT ALL PELLOIE'S ACCOMPLICES WERE FOREIGNERS AND WARNS ALGERIANS TO BE VIGILANT IN DEFENDING THEIR REVOLUTION AGAINST NEFARIOUS FOREIGN ESPIONAGE.

3. THIS IS FIRST LOCAL MENTION OF PELLOIE-CHAUCHARD AFFAIR WHICH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN AT LEAST TWO LE MONDE ARTICLES. ACCORDING TO DEC. 11 AND 17 LE MONDE, TWO HAD BEEN HELD SINCE NOV. 24. AFTER LONG DELAY FRENCH CONSUL GENERAL SCHEDULED TO VISIT THEM DEC. 16. LE MONDE NOTES THAT A COMMITTEE OF SUPPORT FOR PELLOIE AND CHAUCHARD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN SAINT-ETIENNE.

4. ON DEC. 17 LE MONDE ALSO REPORTS THAT AN UNNAMED TUNISIAN EMPLOYEE OF SNS AND AN ENGLISHMAN, MR. RAY OF BRITISH FIRM ATKINS (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED), HAVE BEEN IN JAIL FOR 10 DAYS, APPARENTLY FOR ACTS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF WHICH PELLOIE AND CHAUCHARD ARE ACCUSED. BRITISH, ACCORDING TO LE MONDE ACCOUNT, HAVING SAME DIFFICULTIES IN GAINING ACCESS TO RAY AS FRENCH VISA-A-VIS PELLOIE AND CHAUCHARD.

5. RATIO OF FIRE TO SMOKE IN FOREGOING AFFAIR REMAINS TO BE SEEN. OUR FRENCH COLLEAGUES HAVE PROFESSED MYSTIFICATION AT ARREST OF PELLOIE AND CHAUCHARD. ON OTHER HAND, EXCEPTIONALLY WELL INFORMED BRITISH BUSINESSMAN BELIEVES THERE MAY BE SOME SUBSTANCE TO GOA'S CHARGES.

6. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE INCIDENT, FOREIGNERS HAVE ENCOUNTERED OTHER DIFFICULTIES AS WELL. FRENCH CONSUL GENERAL HAS COMMENTED THAT HARRASSMENT OF FRENCH AT AIRPORT AND OVER QUESTIONS OF DOCUMENTATION HAS STEPPED UP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DURING LAST SIX WEEKS. HE SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO TWO FRENCHMEN STILL HELD, THREE OTHERS WERE EXPELLED EARLIER ON SAME CHARGES. THREE CANADIAN TECHNICIANS WERE ARRESTED IN SIDI BEL ABBES AFTER HAVING BEEN OBSERVED PHOTOGRAPHING MILITARY CONVOY FROM BALCONY OF THEIR APARTMENT. THEY HAVE BEEN RELEASED BUT FRENCHMAN ARRESTED ON SAME CHARGE IS STILL HELD. STRICT INTERPRETATION OF DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS HAS

ALSO BLOCKED DEPARTURE OF SOME SPANISH CITIZENS.

7. TRAVEL TO SOUTH RESTRICTED: VARIOUS SOURCES
REPORT THAT AIR TRAVEL FROM ALGIERS TO ANY POINT IN
SOUTHERN ALGERIA HAS BEEN RESTRICTED FOR FOREIGNERS.
IT APPEARS THAT ONLY THOSE FOREIGNERS WITH SPECIFIC
GOA-RELATED BUSINESS BEING ALLOWED TO TRAVEL, AND THESE
PERSONS BEING REQUIRED TO PRODUCE PROOF OF WHO THEY ARE
AND WHAT THEIR BUSINESS IS BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO PROCEED.
FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS AUTHORIZED SEVERAL TRIPS
TO SOUTH WHICH ARE SCHEDULED DURING CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR'S
PERIOD.PARKER

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